

Pension Application for Peter Harford

W.17991 (Widow: Eunice) Married February 5, 1791, Peter died October 21, 1835.
State City and County of New York SS:

On this eleventh day of October Ad 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the Marine Court of the said City of New York in the open court Peter Harford a resident of said City aged seventy five years on the sixth day of April last past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed June 8th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the summer of 1775 in Col. Drake's Regiment & Captain Ebenezer Hopsons Company of minute men and served in said company not less than six months but the particular time he cannot remember, that when he so enlisted he resided in West Chester County in this State & that his company & himself assisted in building a fort at [Hurlgate?] on the East River.

That he next enlisted in Capt. Samuel Delavans company of Rangers & served in it not less than six months, but he thinks it was nearly a year, though from the failure of his memory he cannot recollect any names that he so served in the year 1776 & thinks the company as an independent one not attached to any Regiments that he with his company & about 20 volunteers were engaged with a battalion of the British under Major Campbell at Judge Wards house in West Chester County about 8 or 10 miles from Kingsbridge in which Major Campbell was killed & his party repulsed.

That the next year 1777 he enlisted in Capt Bouton's Company, Col. Ludington's Regiment of New York State troops & served in it not less than six months but believes it was a year though he cannot specify the exact time.

That during this time his regiment was engaged with the British at Verplanks point on the North River. That afterwards his said Regiment was ordered to reinforce Genl Gates & they marched up the North River for that purpose, but when they got as far as Greenbush they were informed Burgoyne was taken & they returned to the Highlands & were soon after discharged that he enlisted in said Ludington's Regiment as first corporal & served as such.

That in 1778 (as he thinks) but he cannot remember dates, he again enlisted in Capt. Samuel Delavans Company of Light Dragoons Col. Drake's Regiment (as he thinks) as a corporal but was soon promoted to be a sergeant & served in said Delavans company not less than two years employed in scouting up & down the lines through West Chester & Dutchess Counties engaged in several skirmishes with the enemy particularly with the British horse at Crumpoint where many of his company were killed. That he was with said Delavan's company from the time they were first raised in West Chester County until they were discharged but whether the company existed for two or three years he cannot remember.

That he next enlisted in Captain Franchers Company Col. Thomas' Regiment of New York State Troops as a Sergeant & served as such for more than two years.

That this company was raised at Pounridge in West Chester County that Capt. Lockwood was commanded this company part of the time that where attached to this company he was engaged in the battles of Litchfield & Danbury in Connecticut & saw Genl Wooster where he was killed & was very near him at the time this happened at the upper part of Litchfield.

That he was then in the battle at Sawcatuc bridge & from there at Crumpohill driving the British before them until they embarked at the last mentioned place—that at Crumpohill. Deponent was severely wounded in the lower part of the belly by a spent ball which caused a rupture which has afflicted him to this day. That in consequence of that disability he has received a pension from Government since September 1820 which is annexed.

He further says that his memory is very infirm & he finds it impossible to specify days & dates more particularly than he has done above, but of one thing he is very positive that he was in the United States service continually from the beginning to the end of the Revolutionary War for seven years, four or five of which he was a sergeant—and upon further reflection he thinks he was in Thomas' Regiment before he was in Delavan's Light Horse because he remembers that his wound was frequently troublesome to him where he was riding.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state, except that he has been an invalid pensioner on the rolls of the New York agency. (Signed) Peter Harford

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. John Barberie, Clerk.

Increase of Pension

It is hereby certified that Peter Harford formerly a sergeant of Captain William Fanchers company in the Regiment of the Army of the Revolution, who it appears by the accompanying certificate, was placed on the pension roll at the rate of Four dollars per month on account as he states of having received a Hernia in charging the enemy in an action in the vicinity of Saugatuck (Connecticut).

The present condition of the Hernia is as follows: it is of the Scrotal kind, or as sometimes called oschercile; on the right side, land of considerable size measuring in length eight inches and in its semi-circumference Six: obviously of long standing as the aperture thro which the contents disceted, and which was one the abdominal ring, can be distinctly felt, thro the parietes of the abdomen—formerly it was much more troublesome to replace than at present but even now in a costive or in a very lax state of the bowels, there is not unfrequently a good deal of difficulty in reducing it.

The patient has twice, as he says several times to wear a truss, but has never succeeded in getting one; which answered any purpose; he suffers it therefore to take its natural course, and when from any cause it becomes larger or more painful than common which sometimes happens, he keeps it up with his hand until relief is obtained.

His constitution has the appearance of having been a good one; but at present it labors under the effect of old age, which added to the disease renders him almost wholly incapable of laboring his only mode of getting a living—Indeed were he a young man, his complaint in its present forwarded size, would be a serious objection to his undertaking the burdens of a common laborer; for few diseases to which the human frame is liable, is more incompatible with active exertion of body than Hernia.

From there, acts it is our opinion that said Peter Harford is not only still disabled in consequence of s'd injury, but is entitled to as much more as he already receives as a pensioner, being disabled to a degree amounting to the whole of a total disability. (Signed) John Titsworth, Herman Allen, Physicians.

Feb 9, 1829.